



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

THE ROSE AND ITS USES

By J. H. Nicolas

ACACIAS

By C. I. Jerabek

FUCHSIAS—By Mrs. W. S. Thomas

FEBRUARY, 1931

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No. 8

INDIAN RICINAFOLIA - by Eva Kenworthy Gray



INDIAN RICINAFOLIA

Occasionally a new begonia bobs up and we begin to compare it with others of the same family. Last year one came to me with the above label and I've compared it with the *Sonderbruckii* and *Nigricans* which are somewhat similar and find enough difference in the shades of the leaf to warrant them separate names. This Indian *Ricinafolia* makes a fine specimen plant and the flower spikes are similar to the *Sunderbruckii* but a little deeper in color and a larger flower.

I have two of the variety called *Nigricans*; one was very similar to *Sunderbruckii* but

with darker leaf and less yellow along the veins. The other grew an immense leaf, almost black and no yellow along the veins at all. It made a tremendous growth and wonderful bloom spikes and the effort seemed to have taken all its vitality for when it finished blooming it was a wreck and never did recover. I have now learned to not force or overfeed a begonia but rather keep them growing slowly for it then does not lose its vitality but grows along from year to year. I once saw a *Ricinafolia Magnifica* with leaves two feet across and the stalks three feet tall. It was growing in a bed under lath and had leaf mould a foot in depth around it and fertilizer besides. When the blooms faded this plant slumped and stood for a year with a bare stump and never again did it grow so large. It is too much like forcing a plant and they invariably make poor plants afterward.

Another begonia of this type is called the "Nine Point" and seems to belong to this same class. Of course, this isn't its right name, if it ever had one, but some begonia names are hard to remember and everyone but a collector who likes to keep each variety properly named likes to call them by some simple name easy to remember.

An interesting letter from one of the members of the Horticultural Congress that left Boston last June for a trip through Europe came to me and I will quote from it some of the most interesting points.

"Paris was lovely as ever—no war scars visible. We enjoyed the hotel garden when it was warm enough; I wore either a woolen suit or tweed ulster every day I was in Europe. The hotel proprietor and his wife were a pleasant young couple, enthusiastic gardeners and there was a pile of rose catalogues on the table in the lobby. They had a most adorable little white Pomeranian dog that was a great pet. He did not understand English but when his master said, "Va Prominer" (go for a walk) he would dance and yelp with delight. There was also a pet turtle in the garden.

Parks in Paris are planned for beautiful vistas, fountains, beautiful trees and skillfully

planted shrubs. But the gardens are formal and not pleasing to the eye. The gardeners favorite beds are filled with scarlet and pink geraniums and the yellow *calceolaria regosa*. The effect sets your teeth on edge. They have no garden clubs to teach them better.

The Counetts garden is mostly on the American plan, but the gardener "busts out" occasionally. One outburst was a bed 12x20 feet filled with rose red *semperflorens* begonias and bordered with maroon coleus. This was set in an emerald lawn and was the most brilliant thing I ever saw.

Brussels, Belgium, was very sad. The city seemed empty; very few autos. The people pale, thin and tragic looking. The King's Palace is in the heart of the city; a large four-story building with flower beds in front. We were leaning over the parapet making notes of the flowers—shrubs of box and holly, pink hydrangeas and center beds of canna and dahlias, very ordinary, when we heard the clang of a musket at our elbow; a very stupid looking soldier, a peasant boy. I spoke to him in French and he answered in Flemish, so neither of us understood the other. But the gun is an universal language—"No loitering." I suppose they thought we might be spies. They have reason to be distrustful. The gardens were a little better than France and Holland gardens were still better. The Hague had a good many nice rock gardens in the front yards. We drove through the Haarlem bulb fields and saw the hyacinth bulbs lying in rows like onions to dry. The soil is very sandy and there are thin lines of grain or lupines between the rows of bulbs to enrich the soil.

Fields were divided by Hawthorne hedges and instead of roads for teams there are narrow canals and the bulbs are loaded on boats to go to the warehouse.

The people of the cities dress as we do but the islands of Vollenhema and Maarken are five miles down the Zuyder Zee from Amsterdam and are isolated fishing villages and still wear the ancestral costumes.

The Dutch are fat and jolly (they were not touched by the war) and sharp traders. They tried to sell me a coral necklace at Vollenhema for \$4.00. I afterwards bought one at the Hague just like it for fifty cents. All it was worth. We crossed from Hook von Holland to Harwich, England, and I saw the place where my father's ship was wrecked when I was a child."

FUCHSIAS

By Mrs. W. S. Thomas

We are quite willing to admit that perhaps the two Directors of the American Fuchsia Society living here in San Diego have been remiss in not asking more space in the Magazine columns, but you know "there is always a reason," and we have two of them.

One is that not every one is interested in our hobby—therefore we do not wish to take space which might be of more interest to more readers, on other subjects. The other reason is that thus far we have little authority to give names, and without them we are always striking a stump. When the National Society settles that much abused, much discussed question, we will probably speak so often, so loud and so long, that Mrs. Johnson will be calling, "Help".

I believe we told some time back, that there is now established at Berkeley, a growing field where a specimen of every kind to be found is being planted that they may be studied under like conditions by expert Botanists. Fuchsias, more than most any other plant, give such different growth and bloom under different soils and climates, that a common condition was quite necessary before names and varieties could be definitely established. It will be a year before we can announce a full nomenclature.

We have the variety she speaks of and quotes Harry Green as naming "Walter Long." We obtained it as "Prostrata." Mr. Green assumed a common liberty in giving it a name of his own choosing. We heartily agree that it is a splendid plant and well worth cultivating.

An English gardener now a resident of San Diego, was comparing a Fuchsia Catalog from his firm, with one which had been sent me. "Yes, the names are right but the descriptions are wrong," was his admission. We fail to see what we have to hold to, if either is wrong. And who can prove which is wrong.

Our Society at Berkeley will undoubtedly in due time, assume the common prerogative and name our American Fuchsias, although we assume they will allow the imported English varieties to keep their English names, without going to war with our sister country. At present, the best we can do is to collect all varieties possible, and give individual care, according to their needs. Prune every weak branch—then cut off every other one which can possibly be spared, then cut off some more, even if you must shut your eyes to keep your heart hard. In a short time you will have a beautiful plant. Of course the dormant season is the accepted time for this. But the matter of pruning, with some varieties is much like a friend says of her housecleaning—namely that

she never has a general upheaval because she cleans everything as she thinks it calls for such treatment. Much the same as Mr. Osborn told us of the roses of Pernet type.

Then fertilize heavily with animal fertilizer—mulch in warm weather, and never let them get dry. I have a new variety now in bloom, given me under name of Irwin Giant. It is semi-double, sepals rose color, light rose corolla with dark rose veinings. Also one called Immense—long pure white corolla with red sepals. But I am fearful it will prove to be similar to some of the other six kinds I have with white corolla.

Trying to describe a Fuchsia bloom is an inglorious task; one never gets anywhere because it cannot be done. There is only one real test—use your eyes.

EXPLORING FOR PLANTS

By David Fairchild

(The Macmillan Co., 1930; \$5.00)

Amateur horticulturists are becoming more numerous all the time, yet it is a bit surprising how few have come to realize the enormously heightened interest in what they do, or the better understanding and respect for the plants they cultivate as personable living beings with histories, which comes from a program of well chosen reading. In such a program the writings of many of the great plant explorers, Fortune, Farrer, Wilson, Ward, and others no less to be honored, will occupy an important position. Dr. David Fairchild has long been one of the living members of this galaxy, his accomplishments in his chosen field alone being sufficient to render the appearance of the present volume noteworthy, though his is ever the search rather for the unutilized than the unknown.

He tells his narrative simply and without flourish, but he has seen unusual things in unusual places under unusual auspices and with the stimulus of unusual contacts, which are altogether fascinating to read about; hence his must be a dull stolidity who can lay such a book aside half read, or who fails to find full richness of entertainment in its pages. Whether our reader joins the author in ransacking the Kew Herbarium for relatives of the coveted mangosteen, in viewing the gay flower fields and mediaeval cities of North Africa, in learning how the Moors have sensed the utter divorce from beauty which can be brought about by slavish devotion to the straight line, in hunting for promising forage crops, in sipping delightedly from many a strange new fruit, in delving into the mysteries of a Javanese rijstaafel, or in visiting many a beautiful exotic garden, he will feel that he has thereby added richly to his own experience of life and become the better able to appreciate the thrills

which may yet await even him in his narrower horizon.

One of the best bits and one which will be appreciated by many another traveller, is the description of the unanticipated degree of contrast offered by Genoa upon the wanderers' return there from the tropics. Interesting personal reminiscences of celebrities of varying prominence are plentifully scattered through the book. But as the author himself says, "If there is any one 'golden thread' to this narrative, it is the thread of the food habits of the world."

Dr. Fairchild fears that Morocco is destined to be "eucalyptized botanically" and quite understandably resents "the idea of a universal eucalyptus covering of the mild-wintered area of the planet." He likewise looks longingly back at the past glories of the Canary Islands, pine-covered as they evidently were in the days before Europeans came with a particularly majestic species. It is therefore not a little surprising to find how often in other pages he appears so much less the naturalist than the confirmed introducer. Happily we need the service of both, and may the spectacular achievement of the one never distract us from duly heeding the measured admonition of the other!

Unfortunately the book is less free of little inaccuracies than we had expected it would be (e. g., the mention of the boa constrictor as a major wild animal of Africa) and such mere irritations as the repeated use of Latin plurals like Annonaceae with a singular article. In mentioning these minor points, however, a reviewer is but attempting to live up to the critical side of his task; his appreciation of the genuine treat which Dr. Fairchild has afforded us is not lessened. Photographic reproductions from the author's camera work are included with great generosity and are by no means the least delightful feature of the volume.—S. S. B.

THE FLOWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Where glint of the dewdrops and sun-kissed showers

Call ever and oft to the wakening flowers,
There's sometimes found such fairy thing
As ever the poets have loved to sing.

With petals as perfect and pure of line
As formed by the Master touch Divine
From its standard arising from chalice of gold
Two wondrous, waxen wings enfold.

And a vision of beauty an orchid stands
The fairest flower of the southern lands,
Which the innocent natives in their simple love
Call the Holy Spirit, or Flower of the Dove.

Miss C. M. Williams.

ACACIAS

By C. I. Jerabek

The acacias are a genus of about 450 species, largely from Australia. Some are trees while others are shrubs, sometimes thorny. A few have bi-pinnate leaves, often-times with numerous pairs of leaves; others do not have true leaves, only when young. Instead they have flattened blades called phyllodia that take the place of leaves. The blossoms come in stalked globose heads or cylindrical spikes, each ball or spike made up of many tiny flowers. While some of these trees or shrubs in this wonderful group are admirably adapted for park and avenue planting, others make excellent specimens for private gardens. Although they do grow in poor soils and withstand neglect, they will amply repay one if planted in good ground and given a reasonable amount of water.

Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood Acacia) is the commonest street tree in San Diego. And though it grows naturally in pyramidal shape, in many places it is pruned more formally. A compact grower, with oblong phyllodia and, in the blossoming time, light yellow flowers.

On Twenty-eighth Street, near Ash and Cedar, are some large trees of another common variety, called *A. pycnantha* (Golden Wattle). It is one of the quickest growing and seems to be satisfied with almost any kind of soil. The tree is covered with very large, rich green phyllodia and, in the spring, golden yellow flowers. This variety is not a favorite any more, notwithstanding its rapid growth and beautiful flowers. The limbs are very brittle, often breaking from the weight of the bloom, sometimes making the tree very unsightly. A specimen may be found near the northwest corner of Vermont and Hendricks Streets.

A. retinodes is a fast growing, upright tree making a round-shaped head. The branches are covered with lanceolate phyllodia of a bluish green color. The yellow flowers come mostly in compound racemes. This variety blooms constantly and in this trait is almost exceptional. Several excellent trees can be seen in front of the High School on Twelfth Street; a lone specimen at 2110 Hickory Street, and two beautiful trees hanging over an artistic gateway at 2833 Nutmeg Street.

A. cyclops is generally a thick growing shrub of a spreading habit. The phyllodia are usually lanceolate shaped. It ordinarily produces quantities of bright yellow flowers, but the beauty of this species is not the blossoms; it is the curly seed pods which on maturity open and show the scarlet funicle surrounding the black seeds. With age these trees become unsightly, as they retain their seed pods until they get discolored and ugly. On a knoll about a quar-

ter of a mile north of the Twenty-fifth Street entrance to Balboa Park there is a planting of this species, and in the same locality are a few splendid *A. Baileyana*.

A. Baileyana (Cootamunda Wattle) is not only one of the most beautiful but is also very popular. It grows to be a large, spreading tree, and about February the silvery blue, fern-like foliage is practically buried under the racemes of canary yellow flowers. A couple of handsome trees are growing at 2344 Fort Stockton Drive. There are two other varieties very similar to this; one is called *A. discolor*, the leaves of this species being a bright green, but otherwise the same. The other is a variety of the *Baileyana*, and is called *purpurea*—identically the same except the leaves have a purple shading. On the southeast corner of Grim and Upas Streets is an *A. Baileyana* and an *A. discolor* used as street trees. I do not remember seeing a single specimen of *A. Baileyana* var. *purpurea* in this city; but on Mr. Hugh Evans' place, Santa Monica, Calif., there is a beautiful tree.

A. cultriformis (Knife-leaved) is an interesting shrub. The phyllodia are shaped like a plow share, bluish green in color; the flowers are a beautiful yellow. Though this has been grown for a number of years in California, it is still considered an oddity. A specimen can be found at 2384 Fort Stockton Drive, 2502 San Marcos Avenue, 3144 Burlingame Drive, and a planting of them in the park near Twenty-eighth and Ash Streets. In this same planting are some other acacia trees, called *cyano-phylla* (Blue-Leaved Wattle). Usually a medium sized tree with pendulous branches covered with large phyllodia sometimes a foot long and golden yellow flowers. At 4294 Arguello Street one may be seen hanging over the fence near the north corner.

A. podalyriaefolia derived its name from the satin tree (*Podalyria*). To my knowledge there is not one of these trees in San Diego, but in Hillside Park, Santa Barbara and in Mr. Hugh Evans' estate, Santa Monica, California, excellent specimens may be seen). This acacia is usually the earliest to bloom. A large shrub or dwarf tree with gray branches, having large, round, silvery phyllodia an inch or more long and about as broad; extra large, rich yellow flowers borne in racemes longer than the phyllodia. The beauty of this variety is when in flower, because later it retains its seed pods which are very large giving the tree a dead appearance. In Balboa Park along Eighth Street, about a quarter of a mile north of the Central Fire Station is a planting of this variety, and a very good single specimen north of a residence at 4364 Hawk Street.

A. longifolia (Sydney Golden Wattle) is one of the common varieties, used extensively for backgrounds where a low, bushy effect is wanted. They make excellent binder for loose soils.

Along the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way, near San Francisco, they have been planted on the sand dunes to keep them from shifting. Or when a quick-growing street tree is wanted, these acacias answer the purpose, because with a little pruning they will make an upright tree. The phyllodia are oblong-lanceolate, of a pea green color. The flowers are borne in spikes at the axil of the phyllodum. You may find a good specimen in the park, leaning on the steps of the California building, and a couple more excellent ones at 3660 Indiana and 3506 Albatross Streets, and a row used as street trees at the southeast corner of Myrtle and Granada Streets.

A. decurrens (Green Wattle) is an attractive tree, attaining a height of fifty feet or more. The branches of the new growth are angled and covered with feathery leaves, which are sensitive to the touch and close up when picked. The flowers are a bright yellow, twenty to thirty in a head. This makes an excellent tree when young, but as it grows older the smaller limbs die out. A beautiful specimen is growing in front of a residence at 4085 Hawk Street and another near the northwest corner of Arbor Drive and Randolph Street, close to a private garage.

A. decurrens var. *dealbata* (Silver Wattle) is a large, spreading tree with finely cut, fern-like foliage, silvery gray or ashy hued; large racemes of golden yellow flowers. In the park north of the Golden Hill aviary (this section of the city derived its name from the golden blossoms of the numerous acacia trees in this vicinity) are a number of these showy trees and another in the extreme northwest section, near Sixth and Upas Streets. Here also is a tall *A. decurrens*. I noticed several good examples around the city, worthy of mentioning,—an excellent tree is hanging over a wall south of a home at 3303 Twenty-eighth Street; another south of a dwelling at 3554 Indiana Street, and a good specimen at 1046 LeRoy Street, Point Loma.

A. decurrens var. *mollis* (Black Wattle) is a tree closely resembling *dealbata*, but the foliage is a dull green and the pinnate pairs more compact; the flowers are pale yellow and though its blooming time is in the spring, it produces blossoms off and on throughout the year. Close to the northwest corner of Randolph and West Washington Streets are a couple of small ones. (This piece of property belongs to the Park Department, and some day probably will be one of the finest small parks in the city.)

A. macradenia is a round headed shrub with drooping branches covered with attractive blue-green foliage, the phyllodia being a lanceolate-felcate shape. The flowers come in small racemes from two to three and up to a dozen

in the axil of the phyllodum. The trunk and branches of this species are a mahogany color and when dried and polished take on a beautiful luster. South of a home at 4034 Randolph Street is a splendid specimen. The seed from which this tree was raised Miss K. O. Sessions brought from Italy. In this same vicinity there are several other species, which will be described in my next installment.

CIRCULAR DESCRIBES DAFFODIL CULTURE

The peculiar habit of certain forms of daffodils that produce flowers that turn green when grown under unfavorable conditions is just one instance of the strict requirements of some varieties of these bulbs, say Dr. David Griffiths, bulb specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in Circular 122-C, *Daffodils*, just issued by the department.

The most notable case of green flowering, says Doctor Griffiths, is that of the Dutch variety *Double Van Sion*. When grown anywhere in the eastern part of the United States, the flowers turn green. The exact causes for this behavior are not known, but growers on Puget Sound, in Washington, can produce normal blooms of this variety.

The circular is a complete revision of an older bulletin on the production of narcissus bulbs. The author explains that the term "daffodils," once used to denote only certain forms of narcissi, is now used to include the whole genus *Narcissus*.

Daffodils rank high in commercial importance in this country. Until recently, when quarantines went into effect, the United States imported approximately 80,000,000 bulbs annually for forcing in homes and greenhouses. Each year many millions of blossoms are cut and sold from outdoor plantings.

Although there is no region where all daffodils can be grown successfully, the bulletin says, there are few sections where some varieties cannot be produced well enough for decorative plantings. The chief regions of commercial bulb production in the United States are along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, in the Pacific Northwest, and in the eastern Mississippi Valley.

The bulletin discusses the problems of daffodil growing, including planting, cultivation, digging, and sorting, and gives the results of many years of observation and experiment. The author tells of successful methods of forcing bulbs, and gives directions for saving bulbs that have been forced.

Circular 122-C tells everything about daffodils that an amateur needs to know, and also gives information of value to commercial bulb growers. It may be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The California Garden

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FLOWER SHOWS

The Encinitas Mid-Winter Flower Show, February 17th to 23rd, marks the beginning of the parade of San Diego County Floral displays. Flower shows are instructive, entertaining and highly desirable from the standpoint of both the amateur and professional horticulturists. Their success or failure, however, generally may be attributed to the degree of interest shown as indicated by the attendance. The interest of the promoters soon wanes with public indifference. True, some of the finer things are often seen at the smallest amateur shows, but it is only human nature to strive harder under the stimulus of widespread recognition of your accomplishments. Now the answer is obviously this. Make an effort to visit every flower show that you can this year and thereby add your support to the cause of finer shows and finer gardens.

Monaincho, Roserea,
Ireland.
Dec. 31, 1930.

Dear Editor:

My recollection is that in a rash moment before leaving California in the fall, I promised to drop you a line from this side of the "herring pond," with a vague idea in my head at the time that I might have something of horticultural interest to report. However, it having been such a long time since I had been on "the ould sod," for the moment I was quite oblivious of the tremendous difference between the two countries, climatically at this time of the year. When I used to think back to the old Irish expressions regarding the weather, such as "a fine soft day, sir, Glory be to God," I really thought that Pat meant literally something soft or mild in the air, but if so, it certainly does not apply here in winter, and when the postman remarked on the fine mild day this morning, and I was debating whether it was warm enough to play golf, I could not altogether agree with him—but even at this time of year Ireland is a very beautiful country with its rolling green hills, for the most part beautifully wooded, and with many fine country homes dotted here and there over the landscape. I have been here at the old home nearly all the time since landing. A large old fashioned rambling country house, surrounded by many acres of ornamental grounds, including a two acre fruit and vegetable garden, surrounded by a ten-foot stone wall, against which are trained trees of plum, pear, peach, etc., some of which I remember picking fruit off of sixty years ago. An ideal place to live in the summer, but (after our wonderful California climate) a very chilly place in the winter.

Eating and golf are the two favorite pastimes, with the accent on the former, and there is good fox hunting for those who are fortunate enough to have a couple of good horses, and young enough to ride them! There are no better sports anywhere than the Irish, and no better hearted or more hospitable people. Paddy cannot do enough for you and there is a good natured, easy going way with him that sort of gets you, even if you know it is principally blarney!

Poor Pat cannot treat himself as liberally as he did "in the good old times" (?), not because he is not just as fond of his glass, but because the price is four times what it used to be!

There is practically nothing in bloom at this time of year out of doors, and even under glass there is very little outside of Primulas and Cyclamen, and I expect we will be leaving for home before the roses and the wonderful displays of bulbous flowers come in.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

I visited the Botanical Gardens at Glasnerin near Dublin in November and saw many fine specimens of trees and shrubs, but the prettiest things I saw were some splendid specimens of holly variegated (silver and gold) and otherwise and literally covered with their bright red berries.

I am leaving for London in two days to visit a sister there and join my wife who left here over a month ago. Hoping you are well, with kind regards to yourself and Mr. McLean.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Walter Birch.

P. S.: Hope you can read this. I have no stenographer and my private secretary is on her holiday.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The next meeting to the Florio Association will be held in the Floral Building, Balboa Park, Tuesday, February 17th, when members and friends of the Association will be privileged to listen to a talk by Mr. Walter C. Armacost, famed orchid grower of Los Angeles.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

Mrs. W. J. Stanton, San Diego.
John Zittell, San Diego.
Hugh Evans, Santa Monica.
Monroe Brewer, National City.
Miss Vivienne Blanchard, National City.
Miss Ruth Coburn, National City.
H. K. Adams, Glendale.
Mrs. Karl Kenyon, La Jolla.
Richard Talmadge, Los Angeles.
J. E. Jencks, Pasadena.
Mrs. E. N. Greenleaf, Pasadena.
Mrs. Theo. Manio, San Luis Obispo.
Mrs. Nell Moser, Encanto.
O. W. Roberts, Ojai, Calif.

GARDEN POOLS LARGE AND SMALL

By Leonidas W. Ramsey and
Charles H. Lawrence

(The Macmillan Co., 1931; \$2.50)

In this small but artistic volume, notable for its good print and generally attractive display of its wares, the use, setting, design, construction, planting and maintenance of artificial pools of water in gardens, more particularly in small gardens, are practically and simply elucidated. Even to such elementary matters as the mixing of concrete, the authors are at pains to smooth the path of any resident of Suburbia who fain would embellish his backyard with a modest water garden, constructed at odd times by himself. The numerous well-selected illustrations, many of them of considerable intrinsic beauty, aid greatly in making this an exceedingly helpful guide.

—S. S. B.

1931 GARDEN CONTEST

President Mrs. Mary A. Greer announces the appointment of the 1931 Garden Contest Committee, Mr. G. H. Middlebrook, Mrs. John Burnham and Mr. John W. Snyder. The Committee, it is planned, will make their inspection of gardens entered in the Contest, during the months of April and October. It is earnestly desired that the Contest for this year shall excel even that of 1930 and that this may be accomplished early and numerous entries are requested by the Committee.

Entry blanks may be obtained from the Harris Seed Company, 913 Seventh Street, from Dunning-Millar Company, 909 Sixth Street, and from John W. Snyder, 2504 Fifth Avenue.

Dear Editor:

I have my doubts whether sweet alyssum is a good ground cover for daffodil ground either winter or summer, though I have read about its use, far and wide, for a number of years.

A year ago last September I planted it. Thinking it grew too high and handsome, I cut it back once, but was quite content with it until the daffodils failed to appear. Digging in, I found the daffodil shoots rotted, and the strong sweet alyssum roots occupying the ground for a depth of two feet. Needless to say, the daffodils are coming up poorly even this year, though I routed the enemy root and top. On this showing, sweet alyssum is not a ground cover for any garden plant.

I believe I promised you an occasional communication, hence the yarn. Another thing I have learned since investigating the ph. of my soils and that is how dangerously easy it is to overdo the use of lime. I received a testing kit for Christmas and it teaches a lot. I am watching the behavior of my roses and those of a neighbor who does considerable budding on vigorous roots of Ragged Robin grown in place, and I am beginning to wonder whether I can equal him without imitation. It is my own practice to yank out a bush after a year unless it shows at least one vigorous stem with good eyes to prune to. It is surprising the number of poor supporters that see the light through this practice, though the tops look usually quite lush with twigs.

Yours,

C. G. White,
Redlands, Calif.

NOTICE

The following numbers of the California Garden magazine are needed for the reserve files. Will those able to supply them please communicate with either the president or the secretary.

1929—June.

1930—August.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

WILDFLOWER SHOW IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne, Victoria.

Shy bush flowers, familiar only to those whose wanderings lead them into the lonely, scent-laden glades of the Australian bushlands, had an official introduction to the people of Melbourne when the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria held its jubilee show.

From all corners of Victoria were gathered bunches of the multicolored blossoms which weave their rainbow cloak over the countryside in Australia's springtime—and to them were added the choicest floral species of other states. Some, packed in ice, came by air from West Australia and the far north of Queensland; some were transported for stages by donkey, camel, car and train. It was the most comprehensive wildflower collection ever displayed in Melbourne, between 700 and 800 species being included.

But not all of them were from their native haunts; dozens of varieties came from suburban gardens where they have been cultivated with great success. The Field Naturalists' Club is tireless in its fight against the destruction of native flora, and it encourages the practice of its slogan: "Conservation by cultivation." Through its efforts, native flowers now add their beauty to dozens of gardens where imported varieties formerly reigned supreme.

Wild orchids were shown in all their delicate beauty; spidery unsubstantial things—some springing among misty maidenhair from soft beds of cool green moss. "Nodding greenhoods" seemed to whisper bush secrets to "blue fairies," which not long before had been caressed by the bees and butterflies of some fern-clustered glen. Dozens and dozens of orchids, dainty, graceful, fantastic—"common spiders," "birds," "snakes," "bearded greenhoods," and "mayflies."

Here on another bench was a glorious mass of the West Australian wax flower, its delicate mauve blooms seemingly wrought in enamel by a master hand; over there was a cluster of wonga vine, its flowers all cream and mauve bells from which bush fairies might have rung enchanting music. Rosemary made a study in red and green, and near by, the eucalyptus *Torquata* was a burst of crimson and yellow, with clusters of red "gum nuts."

From West Australia came a big bunch of the strangely beautiful "kangaroo paws," red and green; in another corner was a bundle of brown, furlike "kangaroo tails," five or six feet long.

New South Wales contributed the majestic waratah, with its stately crimson flowers; red and purple hibiscus flamed forth a touch of the tropical north. Soft white "flannel flowers" from near Sydney, were there, too.

A riot of color, a profusion of green foliage, a blending of fragrant perfumes—the wildflower country came to the city, lingered a little while, and was gone again.—Allan Burbury in *The Christian Science Monitor*.

ROCK GARDEN VERONICAS

Many veronicas are rather weedy plants; some are annuals and useless for garden effects; some are brook or roadside weeds; many of the tall garden kinds are rather weedy when not in bloom. All are of very easy culture. The low or creeping species from central Europe are especially useful for the rock garden, although little is heard of them. They will stand all the hard conditions under which sedums will thrive as in dry sunny spots, although half shade, with too much moisture for many rock plants, will not harm them. Most of these veronicas form little evergreen mats, making a perfect soil cover. Usually the flowers are blue, but there are white and rose varieties, and the bloom is mostly in late Spring and early Summer.

Veronica repens is not an inch tall, in a flat mat, with rather large solitary white flowers in June.

V. saturoioides, is evergreen, creeping, the leaves four-ranked like those of a sedum.

V. saxatilis is a tiny erect evergreen shrub, the leaves also four-ranked.

V. filiformis is low, creeping, with tiny round leaves.

V. rupestris is low, creeping, evergreen, a small *Daphne cneorum* in habit, with flowers in spikes, blue, rose or white, or pale lavender. The variety *nana* is three inches tall. *V. Teucrium prostrata* is similar but taller. *V. fruticulosa* is hardly different and these three may be garden forms of the same species.

V. pectinata is a creeping evergreen, grey, wooly, like the wooly thyme. Flowers blue or rose.

V. gentianoides has rosettes of smooth gentian-like leaves and erect spikes of light blue flowers in May; the earliest species.

V. Allionii has tufted dark green leaves; blue spikes to eight inches.

V. incana has tufted gray-green foliage like a small *Salvia*; blue spikes.

V. pinnatifida has shredded leaves; erect; pale blue; June.

V. multifida is less deeply cut; similar habit and flowers; dark blue.

V. peduncularis is very forking, with large palest blue flowers in very diffuse panicles.

There are many more of these rock garden veronicas; but these I have and feel sure of them.—Stephen F. Hamblin, Lexington, Mass., Botanic Garden, in *Horticulture*.

THE LATHED GARDEN

By Alfred D. Robinson

Among many resolutions for the year 1931, there is one I hope to make stick, and that is to drop the use of Lathhouse in favor of the Lathed Garden. I don't feel I have to give reasons but am going to do so, in the desire to make the substitution general. In the first place, the need of the lathed covering for the culture of many plants and its desirability for a host more, has become so established that it may be postulated as a part of all well balanced gardens in this Southland, and in consequence, the subject can be approached from a garden aspect as differentiated from a mere cultural one. Then the term lathhouse has been associated with a class of structure so absolutely unattractive in appearance that the name lathhouse has become "a hissing and a reproach," with the general public. Further it has acquired a synonym "shade house" that is harmful in that it stresses shade when the very life of the lathed Garden is dependent upon filtered SUNSHINE. There are many other reasons but let this be the last for now, Florida calls them "slathouses." So here and henceforward I and my house shall talk about The Lathed Garden, and later I hope to drop the lath altogether and make it The Protected Garden.

February is the month to begin operations for the summer display of the Tuberous Begonia. At its end the tubers will begin to sprout and should be potted. There is an absurd but widespread belief that tuberous Begonias are hard to grow, when just the opposite is the fact, and this goes for hundreds of other Begonias, which are by nature quite hardy, of course within certain limits. This week I have had the pleasure and privilege of listening to a gentleman who had spent much time in Central and South America, which is not of itself extraordinary, but it is strange that he should be a botanist and plant lover and had taken particular notice of the Begonias he met and made a mental note of location, climate, etc. This informant found the Begonias in what he termed the monsoon district, one of definite wet and dry seasons and not in the rain forest area. Which meant that they natively in quite temperate locations and some he found where definite frost occurred, these latter being of the thick stemmed sorts that lost all their leaves in the cold season. He

emphatically stated that it was his conviction that in the United States the Begonia was very much overcoddled, like a few other things not all of them plants. This information was forthcoming after I had stated that through a long term of culture I had arrived at believing the Begonia to be a fairly hardy plant having started with the idea that it was a tender exotic. This winter of a surprising coolness, of course nothing like Florida endures, has shown an astonishing indifference on the part of the Begonia to a long run of nights flirting with forty Fahr. I wish I were able to give a full account of what I heard from this man who had seen the Begonia in its native haunts, naked and unafraid so to speak, I never felt such a rank amateur but so far as I can recollect I made only one break, but then after that I kept pretty still, he had been describing a Begonia that had never been near Rosecroft and I mildly suggested it might not have been a Begonia, when he replied, "of course I know nothing of Begonias except as I have seen them growing, but I am sure it belonged to the Begoniaceae."

I would not give you the idea my explorer acted a bit superior for he did not, but he did in a very quiet way exude knowledge of plants, chemistry, photography, and what not that was so far over my head that I was dumb and I fear acted that way. I am looking now at some formulas he gave me to make seed sprout in three weeks that ordinarily takes six months and the only thing that I can identify is H₂O which from buying it expensively at the druggists I have learned to be water.

I have not forgotten about those tuberous which should be handled this month. There are many kinds of these Begonias, singles, doubles, frilled, crested, hanging basket type, etc., and in all colors except blue. The treatment for all is similar. The tubers should be half buried in moss, sand, leafmold, whichever you like or is handiest, and placed in a warm shaded place and kept moist when they will start, like children going to school, rather unevenly. When the sprout is an inch or so up, pot in a small pot with the top of the tuber just under the surface, water well and then not again till growth is active. That is a sort of pre-digested formula, now for the footnotes. The

top of the tuber is the depressed side, they won't grow worth a cent upside down. A good potting mixture is half leafmold, a quarter loam and a quarter a sharp gravel with a dash of bonemeal and a sprinkling of charcoal. The advice to use a small pot is because they do not seem able to use a large one till the root system has developed and at least one shift seems to be advisable if not necessary. Under-potting is much less dangerous than over-potting. When you go shopping for tuberos don't let size influence you. The size of the tuber is apt to be in inverse ratio to the bloom, one from an inch, to inch and a half is a better bet than one twice that size. Expert growers for exhibition prefer an inch and a half tuber. Tubers should be smooth and round with a definite depression on top and should have good depth; a shallow one is not good. A tuber throws its best flowers in its second and third years, after then the plant may be larger but the blooms are inferior.

The Tuberous Begonia can be grown by any one, almost anywhere, if they are shaded from direct sun and kept in a fairly moist atmosphere. If grown in pots, the pots should be plunged in the soil or put in another container large enough to allow of a padding of moss or other absorbent packing.

There has been a definite threat of our national trait to worship bigness and the large double tuberous have been the popular favorites. These, unquestionably, gorgeous things have not, however, the artistic charm of the singles and other types more modestly proportioned. The wholly charming little yellow single Pearcei with its velvety mottled foliage can grow under one of the big doubles without touching a leaf and far the loveliest of the hanging type in my opinion was a small buff single. Perhaps the threat spoken of above has already passed, for all my Pearcei tubers have gone already.

This is written on January 26, a surprisingly warm balmy day, but don't let it betray you into thinking spring is here, it is coming—after a while.

AUTUMN COLORS OF ATLANTIC COAST FORESTS

There is a tradition that frost is necessary to transform the green of autumn leaves into gold, amber, ruby, amethyst and what not. So I had always believed. The illusion was dispelled when, on a trip as far north as Battleboro, Vermont, October last. The southern and eastern sides of hills and mountains were aglow, and as gorgeously beautiful as ever I had seen mountain sides in the days of years long gone by, and yet never a frost, or even a cold night.—P. D. B.

REPORT OF JANUARY MEETING

The regular meeting of the Floral Association was held Tuesday, January 20th, in the Floral Building, Balboa Park. After calling the meeting to order, the chairman, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, took the opportunity of this, the first meeting of the new year, to extend to the workers and members, and others present, the Association's best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

Miss Kate Sessions then spoke on "what to plant now." She emphasized the value of deciduous trees for garden purposes, with special emphasis on the flowering varieties. Tropical stuff should be planted in April and May; roses are now dormant and can be handled with bare roots. Hardy shrubs will do well now; but are better if planted in late summer. Chrysanthemums should be taken up now and set aside in the earth until March and then separated for planting. Carnations do best if planted in March and April.

Miss Sessions never fails to entertain her audience; and her remarks, whether directly in line with her subject, or in some amusing way illustrating her point, always command attention.

Miss Sessions was followed by Mr. Osborn, Editor of California Garden, whose subject was "pruning roses." He handled his subject in a convincing manner and left with the meeting many valuable suggestions for successful rose culture. He dwelt quite at length on the history of roses from an early period down to the present, with interesting remarks on the better known varieties.

Such talks as that of Mr. Osborn, giving to his listeners the benefit of his experience and study in the culture and care of roses, cannot fail to stimulate rose culture, but—alas—it also leaves with the amateur grower a feeling of utter despair when he realizes the importance of proper pruning and looks about him at his job.

Miss Sessions then described certain specimens brought to the meeting, after which coffee and cookies were served by the House Committee and the meeting adjourned.

—A. S. H.

JOLLY HOLLY

There are many legends and superstitions about Holly, and all nations seem to love it. The fire-worshippers believed that the sun never shadowed it. It was customary among the Romans to send holly-boughs to their friends as messengers of good wishes. Some thought branches of this tree would protect houses from lightning, and men from witchcraft. Its leaves are a favorite food with some animals, but the sharp prickly foliage of the lower branches discourages many.

In Flower Language Holly means foresight.

—C. D. B.

ACACIAS

By K. O. Sessions

Acacia Dietrichiana, native of Australia, a three-year-old plant from seed is a low, bushy grower and has not been very promising until this January when it came into very full bloom. The leaves are very narrow (less than one-fourth of an inch) and three to four inches long. The flowers are borne in small clusters along the stem for six to twelve inches, making a long and narrow spray. The color is a light, pleasing yellow and it is very fragrant. This species is not found in Nicholson's or Bailey's or Johnson's encyclopedias but is recorded in the La Mortola Botanical Garden catalogue of plants of 1912. The fact that it is a bushy grower and blooms freely in January makes it a desirable variety. *Acacia Podalyriaefolia* is the earliest of seasonal bloomers—being in full bloom late in November and until January or February. *A. Baileyana* comes into bloom in late January and February. *A. Cultriformis* is a very desirable shrubby variety with choice flowers that are good for cut flowers. In February a new sort that is most promising will come into bloom for the first time in San Diego, I believe; it is *A. leptoclada*, introduced from Australia by Dr. Wayland Vaughan of La Jolla, from Australia, a few years ago. I have two plants very full of large buds now, January 18th. All acacias are winter and early spring bloomers and generally bloom on the north and shady side of the plant first. February, March and April will be the *Acacia* blooming months in San Diego and the best time to select and plant these fast growing and desirable trees. San Diego already makes a better showing of *Acacias* in variety than any section of the Mediterranean Coast that I visited five years ago.

LOMBARDY POPLAR

By K. O. Sessions

The Lombardy Poplar grows very fast and very slender and can be handled very cheaply while it is deciduous and dormant in winter; even as a good-sized plant eight to twelve feet tall and even taller. It is, therefore, planted more frequently than it deserves in gardens and close to the house. Its height gives a certain immediate effect but the result of its rapid root growth becomes a serious problem, for it sends up root shoots and spreads rapidly and cutting out the root shoots and disturbing the roots does not end the trouble. This Poplar has much merit and on large grounds a safe place can be found for it. It is however, best adapted for highway planting, in cold localities. Such a location in San Diego would be the Mission Valley Highway and as the restoration of our San Diego Mission is nearing completion a well decorated highway to

it would be a full completion of a splendid piece of work. Highway trees should not be planted nearer than 50 to 75 feet and the latter distance is better—fewer trees and better care in planting. Also to place them just inside the property line would be a safer location but if that is not possible then close to the property line on the right of way.

This Poplar turns a fine yellow in the fall and especially when the light frosts begin and it is then very effective and in strong contrast to its brilliant green summer foliage. It grows readily from cuttings and off-shoots, so can be cheaply propagated. Low and moist ground suits its rapid growth and Mission Valley would offer good soil conditions for its successful growth. A fine row of these trees not more than 12 years old is in Fullerton, Calif., just as the highway road to Los Angeles passes the first orange grove, on the left hand side. This Poplar gives little or no shade but is decorative in its slenderness, height and healthy looking foliage—in its golden fall foliage, then in its bareness and next in its new spring foliage.—K. O. Sessions.

WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY

By Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

February rarely passes without rain, and records show that heavy precipitation occurs as often during this month as it does during January. The monthly average over a period of 81 years is 1.90 inches, which is the greatest for any month of the year. Only twice has February passed without measurable rainfall, and the greatest total for the month was 9.05 inches in 1884.

It is one of the coldest months, but usually is not so cold as January as the days are longer. However, frosts are frequent, when the days are clear and dry, and although firing is seldom necessary in the citrus districts, temperatures below freezing often occur. In the city, the thermometer has never reached the freezing point, and many warm, calm and dry days prevail between storms. The average maximum temperature is 63 degrees, but many days have occurred with 70 degrees or higher.

Clear days average 14, partly cloudy days 8, cloudy 6, and days with rain 7. The sunshine percentage is 67. As the pressure areas move more rapidly across the United States in February than in December or January, there are more rapid weather changes, and prolonged days with dry easterly winds are less apt to prevail.

Occasionally high winds accompany the rain, and stormy weather will persist for days at a stretch, but the average velocity is less than that during the rainless summer.

THE ROSE AND ITS USES

A Practical Talk on How to Make More People Want, Buy and Enjoy More Roses

By J. H. Nicolas, Research Dept., Jackson & Perkins Co., before the New York State Nurserymen's Association at Rochester

Should another amendment to our constitution prohibit the use of deciduous shrubs and trees except the genus *Rosa*, our gardens would not be so terribly affected because the genus *Rosa* is so diversified and offers such landscaping possibilities that after some readjustment our land would again be beautiful and truly "blossom like the Rose." Even trees could, to a certain extent, be replaced with Roses; and it does not take many years to cover a dead tree with climbing Roses almost to the uppermost branches. In fact, a dead tree could be covered with Roses quicker than a new one could be grown in its place. I saw last Summer in Kew Gardens in London, tall Spruces, alive and covered with American Pillar almost to the top. Hugonis grafted on a 6-foot stem makes a fairly good sized tree with flowers of a color not existing, to my knowledge, in small trees now in common use; and any *Rugosa* thus grafted will also make a handsome tree. The use of Roses has no limitation and matches the resourcefulness of the gardener; there is a type of Rose for every imaginable stunt, and there is not a shrub, a vine, or a bedding plant that could not be replaced by a Rose bush of some kind (provided, of course, the color of the flower is not involved.) Indeed, there are many shrubs messing up our landscape today that could and should be replaced by Roses. Some Roses will make 10-foot shrubs; others scale down through innumerable types and varieties to *R. morletti*, never higher than 6 inches and always in bloom like a *Viola*.

Roses as Shrubs

The neglect of Roses as shrubs has been for many years a subject of amazement to the Rose student. In the minds of the people at large, Roses mean the Hybrid Tea and the Rambler only. I must say to you, gentlemen, the nurseryman has not helped much in widening this horizon; and thereby he is overlooking a good bet. But the nurseryman is not alone responsible for the situation; the landscape architects, as a class, sorely need to be educated as to the possibilities of the genus *Rosa* and it is up to the nurseryman to do it. Landscape architects base their specifications on material widely cataloged, but it is not enough to catalog a variety; its appropriate use should also be described.

Perhaps shrub Roses have been discrim-

inated against because most of them are but once-a-season bloomers. But why this injustice when we are well contented with the shrubs of other genera, very few of which repeat after their first outburst? Should we give up Lilacs, Viburnums, Forsythias, Spiraeas or the lovely Beauty Bush because they bloom but once? No indeed. Then why demand more from the Rose which gives us a greater range of colors (save in the blues) than all the other shrubs put together? Even if the everblooming feature were a prime requisite, we have the sturdy *Rugosa* family with enough types, from maroon to yellow, to satisfy the most elaborate planting scheme, gratifying us with a fairly consistent repetition.

As to the Hybrid Tea class (misnamed "everblooming" or "monthly" Roses) the most in demand, we could give more help to the public in their selections and thus increase our sales. Many catalogs are literary works, but when they are boiled down, what is in those verbose descriptions? The Rose "is red and possibly fragrant; the bush may be upright and the foliage is always healthy" — but nothing is said about its particular utility, habit, etc., to indicate whether it will meet the requirements of the prospective customer.

The successful salesman is one who creates a desire for his wares by showing that they will meet a particular need; but he will not try to sell a toothbrush just because it is gold-mounted to a man in need of a whisk broom. Yet both are brushes. That is what our catalogs are doing; and after wading through their lengthy descriptions the gardener in need of whisk brooms will often receive a complete assortment from a baby toothbrush to a vacuum cleaner. We want to increase our sales of Roses and the only way to do it is to show what can be done with Roses and to set forth the proper usage of each variety we have to sell. Foreign catalogs are more helpful on that score and I have a particular one in mind from which the most unfamiliar beginner can select what he actually wants without the risk of receiving a draft horse or a Missouri mule when he expected a Shetland pony.

The Rose's Threefold Service

The American amateur wants Hybrid Tea Roses for any one of three purposes: cutting, mass bedding or garden decoration, the latter meaning either in groups or as specimens, alone or with other genera. Some varieties may qualify for two usages; very seldom for the three. To be a cutting Rose, the variety must be fragrant and bloom singly on long rigid stems, and the flower be reasonably lasting. A bedding Rose is one the habit of which is branching and spreading rather than upright, of moderate height and fairly continuous in bloom. Generally a bedding Rose has too short a stem for cutting; its utility is in the mass production. A garden decoration variety is one

that will grow to a fairly good sized bush for color effect.

To illustrate these groups, Mme. Butterfly, Columbia, Hadley and Etoile de Hollande are cutting varieties; Duchess of Wellington, Mme. Leon Paine, Mme. Ed. Herriot, Independence Day, are bedding varieties; Radiance, Gruss an Teplitz, La Tosca and Lady Ursula, are for garden decoration. The garden decoration class often has cutting value (which few bedding varieties have); and cutting varieties can be used for bedding if planted close for mass effect, although generally they are not as productive as the true bedding varieties.

In temperate climates where Winters do not compel a close Spring pruning, most Hybrid Teas can be used as shrubs and I have seen Mme. Ed. Herriot, Columbia, Los Angeles, Etoile de Hollande, and many others as bushes seven feet high and proportionately wide in regions where the thermometer goes to zero every Winter. There is nothing in the world's flora that can compare with such shrubs for color effect and bloom productivity.

Rose Groups and What They Are Good For

Hybrid Perpetuals are unjustly neglected, not only in use but also in treatment, probably because the American product is considered as a "June Rose" only. Yet if properly pruned and otherwise cared for, Hybrid Perpetuals would give a better account of themselves. There is no Rose equal in beauty to a Hybrid Perpetual well grown. It has a place in every garden as a background for a Hybrid Tea bed, as a hedge, and among the low shrubbery. It is also very appropriate as an accent in a perennial bed.

I said "American product" purposely because in most cases the American grown Hybrid Perpetual is a degenerated product, prolific in wild wood and scant of bloom. The process of budding from one year plants is wrong, because the one year wood is seldom blooming wood, and budding from blind wood produces tremendous plants of little flowering quality. To produce good Hybrid Perpetual plants, moderate in wood, but prolific in bloom, eyes from blooming branches only should be used, and these, coming only the second year, necessitate old stock plants. But the quality of the product warrants the practice. We have tried it on American Beauty and, after several years of bud selection, we have a strain growing no higher than Radiance and almost as prolific in bloom. Going through the Rose fields of Europe, we hardly recognize the H. P.'s as we know them in America.

Polyanthas are not used enough. They can be put to many uses—for instance, to replace Geraniums. They are permanent, thus cheaper in the long run; their season is longer because

they keep on blooming for quite a while after Geraniums have been rushed to shelter. Along the seashore, they thrive where other Roses suffer and I have seen whole gardens made of Polyanthas only. Their color range is now nearly as diversified as that of the Hybrid Tea. For beautifying gas and service stations, Polyanthas are supreme and I remember while motoring in France last Summer, stopping at a gas filling station in the center of a beautiful Polyantha and Rambler Rose garden of at least an acre; one bed had over 500 Orleans. I also noticed a hedge of Kirsten Poulsen, a mile long and three feet high—a sight, I can tell you.

Climbers and Ramblers I purposely differentiate between. A Climber is the large flowering type, such as Dr. Van Fleet, every year breaking from near the top of the previous year's growth as if to reach a story higher. The Rambler is the cluster type, such as Dorothy Perkins; its maximum height is one year's growth from the base, and new wood comes from the base, not from the top. Climbers can be trained against a wall or building, while the Rambler should always be where it can get free circulation of air or it will mildew. The uses for the Climbers and Ramblers are so diversified as to satisfy the wildest imagination, and it would take too much time to describe them. Everybody knows the pergola with Climbers for the top and Ramblers spiraled around the columns. (As we know, the Climber is permanent, while the Rambler must be pruned back each year and hence will not do for the top of the pergola.) Summer houses, wire fences, walls and sides of houses, tennis enclosures, pillars, pylons, chain garlands, tree trunks, trained on the ground to cover and hold banks, along lily pools, etc., etc. The pillar is becoming very important; stout posts, well anchored in the ground and of any height desired, planted four feet or five feet apart along a driveway, produce a beautiful avenue effect. A use not often seen in this country is as a border along a flower or Rose bed; Wichurainas or any Ramblers are planted every five or six feet along the edge and the branches as they grow are pinned down close to it like English Ivy. This makes a beautiful border at all times, but especially during the blooming season and in late Autumn, with the clusters of red berries showing.—Florists' Exchange.

LEAVES

Let Us Appreciate and Use Them

The leaves of trees, shrubs and vines, both evergreen and deciduous, and their part in the economy of nature, has arrested my attention this year as never before.

During my rambles over the Atlantic Coast States from Asbury Park, N. J., north to Bur-

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

lington, Vt., and as far west as the Pennsylvania line, I have noticed the ruthless manner in which they are destroyed, burnt, by men and women who are supposed to be intelligent gardeners and should know better. These people seem to have an idea that their premises will be more artistic, neater, in short more beautiful, if the earth around every tree and shrub is swept clean. What a mistaken notion!

The Master Artist never makes mistakes in color schemes or in landscape designs; nor does He waste anything—not even a fallen leaf. After they have served their purpose in building branch and bud, they become a blanket to protect the roots of their parents from the injurious effects of frost and desiccating Winter winds. Furthermore this blanket conserves moisture, for be it remembered that while bole and branch of hardwood vegetation may be dormant during Winter, the rootlets are still active, sending a life preserving fluid up into their system whenever it is not frozen solid. (And it would be surprising to most folks to know how rarely this condition occurs.)

The conservation of moisture is only part of their function in the scheme of things natural. Later they become a mould, food for the parents who gave them birth and life for a season, this food to contribute in the production of the next generation of their kind.

The thought thus far has been of deciduous subjects only. Evergreens of the broadleaved species are even more susceptible to injury from frost, from the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground in which they grow. Their rootlets are much finer and more numerous, and to do their best they must have leaf mold in which to revel during all seasons of the year. Transpiration with these plants is perpetual. They can and do exist under adverse conditions such as bare ground around them; but they cannot make flowering buds under such conditions.

Leaves should be applied to a depth of a foot to Rhododendrons, Kalmias, Magnolia glauca and the Hollies. Herbaceous perennials should receive a mulching annually, though not as heavy a blanket as tree and shrub. If collected and put into a box—not necessarily airtight—with other vegetable refuse as it accumulates in every garden, if a small amount of phosphate is sprinkled over them now and then, and if they are kept moist, they become a valuable top dressing for flower beds by the time the warm days of Spring return. Then, when the gardener is seized with an irresistible urge to dig into the moist earth and plant seeds, fertilizers are at a premium. And there is none better than that which has been made of Leaves.—Peter D. Barnhart in Florists' Exchange.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP



Cut Flowers
Floral Designs

1115 Fourth Street

San Diego

WHAT PLANT NAMES MEAN An Explanation of Their Origin

Many gardeners and plant lovers have often felt, if they have not expressed, dissatisfaction with the botanical names of shrubs, plants and flowers. Not only are they often unintelligible, but frequently unpronounceable, and consequently a source of embarrassment to those who use them in conversation.

"Why do they give them these jaw-breaking names, instead of calling them something in plain English?" is an oft-repeated and rarely answered question, and the questioner is left with a grievance against scientific botanists for their want of consideration for less learned folk, or want of ingenuity in selecting such unsatisfactory names for such charming objects.

Is the grievance justified? By no means. Science in general and botany in particular is international in its scope and appeal, and co-operation between scientific botanists would be impossible unless each species and variety were so named as to be free from all risk of confusion with any other.

Classification and naming of species is one of the most important duties, indeed, perhaps the first duty, of scientific botanists, and botany

as a science may be said to have begun with the system of classification and naming introduced by Linnaeus in 1770 and developed in England by Bentham and Hooker.

Why Plants Have Foreign Names

Obviously the names adopted must be internationally intelligible and for this reason—in the absence of an international language—Latin and Greek words, or artificial words formed from Latin and Greek stems, are the only suitable ones for the purpose. It is not necessary or desirable to give in full detail the system adopted, but a brief outline will doubtless be of interest.

The higher plants—those other than algae, fungi, mosses and ferns, are as a class called Phanerogams—which may be explained as seed-producing plants with conspicuous flowers; they are subdivided into Gymnosperms and Angiosperms—the former with “naked” seeds and the latter with seeds “enclosed”.

The Gymnosperms include the conifers (cone-bearing plants), while the Angiosperms, of which over 100,000 species are known, vary from the lowly duck-weed to the 300 feet high Eucalyptus, and are subdivided into Monocotyledons and Dicotyledons—according as the embryonic plant has one “seed leaf,” like the grasses, or two “seed leaves,” like the Bean. Each of these main divisions is subdivided into Natural Orders, consisting of plants which have certain characters in common. Examples of such orders are Gramineae, the grasses; Orchidaceae, the Orchids; Leguminosae, the pod-bearing plants, and Compositae, the Daisy-like flowers. There are about fifty Orders of Monocotyledons and over two hundred Orders of Dicotyledons.

How Plants Are Classified

Each order is divided into genera (the plural of genus), the order of Compositae alone having 800 genera, of which the garden Asters form one. The genus is composed of species such as *Aster Novae-Angliae* (New England), and the species are further subdivided into varieties, distinguished by an adjective such as *roseus*, “rose-colored”.

The full botanical name of a plant might therefore consist of some half dozen terms, but the overwhelming majority of plants are referred to by two, or at most three, words, the name of the genus, species and variety as in the example given above.

The generic name is often capable of translation or explanation in English—*Aster* means a “star”—but in many cases the name is either derived from the botanist or florist who discovered or introduced it into Europe, e. g., *Fuchsia* from Fuchs, a German; or it is simply the original Latin name as *Pyrus*, the Pear; or again has come into such general use as to need no further explanation.—E. T. Lancaster.

OBSERVATIONS ON A RECENT TRIP TO THE PARK SYSTEMS OF DENVER, KANSAS CITY, ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, HOUSTON AND SAN ANTONIO

By John P. Morley

(Continued from Last Month)

I arrived in Chicago, Friday, Oct. 3rd, accompanied by Mr. Van Griffith of the Los Angeles Park Commission, Mr. Frank Shearer, Superintendent of Parks, Los Angeles, and Mr. G. A. Lindberg, Superintendent of Parks at Oak Park, Illinois, who was our host for the morning and had a program arranged which included a visit to the new Zoological Gardens of Chicago Zoological Park at Brookfield, Illinois, a few miles from the city.

The Zoological Gardens are now under construction, in charge of Edward H. Bean, the Director, on a well devised plan for all types of birds, animals and reptiles. Millions of dollars are being spent in construction and equipment, including the landscaping of the extensive grounds. The area on which the improvement is being made is very flat, and the plans call for the grading of the area, before planting, to be of an undulating character, to provide picturesque settings for the buildings, pools, and lakes, and the general landscape features of the gardens. The general plan as a whole will provide Chicago and vicinity with the best modern equipment for a Zoological Garden in the United States.

Mr. Lindberg also escorted us to Oak Park, a beautiful small city adjoining Chicago. Here we found one of the most complete park and recreational systems, maintained in a high state of efficiency by Mr. Lindberg, the Superintendent.

We were also conducted over several of the park systems of Chicago and noted many improvements under construction, notably along the shores of Lake Michigan. It is really astounding to note the developments since my last visit of five years ago.

The South Park System includes the area where the World Exposition is to be held in 1933. We spent Friday afternoon and Saturday in overlooking the extensive construction work already under way along the lake front, with Mr. C. Richards, the Superintendent of construction for the South Park System, who furnished us with information of the ambitious program that the city has set for the completion and success of this great enterprise.

The City of Chicago is to be congratulated on its wonderful park achievements. Progress all along the line, and the recreational features provided for the enjoyment of the people are object lessons in park development. We had the pleasure on Friday evening to be the guests of the Park Commission at the first night football game held in Chicago at the

Soldiers' Field Stadium, which is within the South Park System, and under the recreational division of the department. The attendance was approximately 60,000 people. Personally, I would sooner see the game in daylight.

Having seen the commencement of the enormous undertakings of the South Park System nearly six years ago, which are to be completed at the time of the opening of the Exposition in 1933, I hope to be able to visit the city again and view the beauty of the park and Exposition, which is being carried out by the South Park System in conjunction with the Exposition Officials.

(To be concluded.)

PORTULACARIA AFRA

Portulacaria afra (the Spekboom) from the S. E. Karoo, also the eastern Transvaal of Africa, covers whole hillsides and mountain slopes with its fresh verdure and its pleasing contrast to surrounding dull vegetation. Under favorable conditions it grows to 20 feet in height and forms dense thickets. It is a wholesome food for the wild buffaloes, elephants and all classes of stock. "Providence meant to spoil the farmer in placing Spekboom on the hills of Karoo," wrote MacOwen in an article on fodder plants in Africa. From Murloth's Flora of Africa, Vol. 1.

In the late book, "Exploring for Plants" by David Fairchild is the following, "At Santa Cruz de Teneriffe for Christmas, 1925, and at Hotel Benitez for dinner. Mr. Fairchild observed that all the hedges, and there were many of them, were of the Spekboom of South Africa. Portulacaria Afra being a good food for elephants Mr. MacOwen asked Mr. Fairchild when he began sending seed and plants to America where would he get the elephants to eat it? It was expected that the goats on the Canary Islands would relish it; at this time they had not begun to browse on it."

At the El Dorado Ranch in Fullerton, California, Capt. Harry Gantz has a short path bordered with this Spekboom and a larger plant at the front end of the rows. These two larger plants provided the cuttings for the hedge which is 2 feet high. I was greatly surprised to see this plant so used and with such excellent results. It requires the least amount of water and needs very little trimming—just a nipping back of the ends. The leaves are the size of a finger nail and the stems are brown and fleshy. The blossoms are interesting small spikes of dainty pink flowers, of no value except for their contrast with the plant. Botanically it is an exclusive. It is the only species of this genus, no cousins and no aunts! This plant will serve well as a hedge about a succulent or rock garden and does not object to the sea air, grows very easily from cuttings and it is a very good pot plant.

SOIL ANALYSTS DEAL

WITH MEREST TRACES

Chemists of the United States Department of Agriculture have found that some of the problems of soil analysis challenge the accuracy of the most painstaking of scientific workers. Many constituents of agricultural soils occur in such minute quantities, say the soil chemists, that in ordinary analytical work they would be disposed of by saying there was a "trace." The soil chemist learns to deal in traces.

W. O. Robinson illustrates this fact in a discussion of the methods now followed in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. "The phosphoric acid determination," he says, "is a stumbling block to the average analyst. A concrete idea of the importance of accuracy in soil analysis may be had by calculating the increase of phosphoric acid and lime in the soil, as the result of adding a liberal dressing of these fertilizers. An application of 200 pounds of phosphoric acid to the acre will raise the percentage of phosphoric acid in the surface soil by only about one one-hundredth of 1 per cent."

The upper 6 inches of an acre of soil weighs approximately 1,750,000 pounds, the chemists have found. In one of the notable achievements of soil science it was found that certain previously unproductive soils in Florida would grow excellent crops of tomatoes if fertilized with only a few pounds per acre of manganese compounds. In certain tobacco soils the addition of a few pounds of magnesium per acre has made differences in production that have fairly astounded the growers. In dealing with such infinitesimal traces of chemical substances, the chemists are forced to use the purest reagents available, and to exercise the most scrupulous attention to their methods. In some of the processes it is necessary to use only platinum vessels because glassware and other utensils would be likely to introduce traces of the substances from which they are made.

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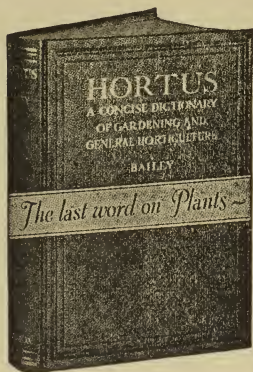
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